

JOHN AND SARAH ROEBUCK LEE



Sarah Roebuck was born July 20, 1821, at Adsack Woodhouse, Yorkshire, England. She was the daughter of Sampson Roebuck and Phoebe Marshall. Sarah was baptized in Mizson, Northinghamshire, England, in May, 1849, at the age of 28.

John Lee was born at Mizson, Northinghamshire, England, January 18, 1822. He was left fatherless at the age of two.

At 10 years of age he went to work on a farm until he was 18. He was married to Sarah Roebuck at the age of 18. He worked at a foundry six years.

He joined The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in England January 28, 1846.

Some time between baptism and the time he left England he was a traveling Elder and as near as can be found he baptized 18 or 20 persons.

On March 22, 1856, he and the family

left England on the ship "Enock Train" for Boston.

He left Sheffield, Yorkshire, England, by rail for Liverpool, under the direction of Elders Frost and McDonald, all rejoicing in going to help in the building up of the Lord's kingdom in the valleys of the Rocky Mountains.

On the ocean we saw many schools of porpoises and some whale.

Some children were born and some died while crossing. It was sorrowful to witness their burial in the briny deep. One day, while we were watching the fish, a dead man floated past. Some other ship apparently had buried him.

After being on the sea many days we landed in Boston on May 1. The ship carried 534 saints. The boat's skipper was Captain Henry P. Rich.

The presidency of the company consisted of Elder James Ferguson, Elder Edmund Ellsworth and Elder Daniel D. McArthur.

We then left Boston for New York and arrived May 2. We left New York at 5 o'clock for Iowa, traveling by rail, and left Chicago at 11 o'clock at night, arriving at Rock Island at 9 o'clock the next morning.

On May 10, at 8 o'clock, we crossed the Missouri River.

Monday, May 12, at 3 o'clock, we arrived at Iowa, dragging our luggage about two miles to a camp ground, where we fixed some tents that were made aboard ship.

It rained and was cold.

May 14—My children came down with the fever.

June 7—Started our trek with our handcarts. It was slow and dusty. We had to allow three of our children to ride all the way (one six months, one two years and one four years old).

June 15—Our son, William Lee, 12, died, also Sister Prator's child. We buried them by moonlight on Bear Creek.

I repaired handcarts every day.

June 26—Traveled about one mile. We were faint from lack of food. We were allowed only about 3/4 lb. of flour a person each day and about 3 ozs. of sugar each week. About 1/2 lb. bacon was allowed each week.

We buried someone nearly every day.

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HOW BEAUTIFUL UPON THE MOUNTAINS

July 1—Cloudy and began to rain; traveled about 15 miles; repaired handcarts. A storm came about 11 that night. It split the tent and there was not a dry thread on us.

A boy was lost and at another time a man was lost, but after a long search both were found.

July 9—Rested at Florence City, mending handcarts and women washing.

July 20—Started again and traveled seven miles.

July 22—Passed over the ferry at Elkhorn.

July 24—Very hot—went about 18 miles.

July 26—Passed over the ferry at Luke Fort — traveled about six miles when it looked very heavy and black. We had not gone far when it began lightning and the thunder roared. In about the middle of the train of handcarts the lightning struck a brother and he fell dead. His name was Henry Walker, from Carlisle, age 58. Left a wife and two sons. I put the body, with the help of the others, on handcart and pulled him two miles to camp, and buried him without a coffin. There were no boards available.

August 2—We saw many buffalo; traveled about 18 miles.

August 6—Were thousands of buffalo; four were killed for food; 14 last of buffalo seen, some were killed and dried.

August 23—Traveled about 16 miles—camped by Platte River. Our allowance of flour tonight was 1 lb. per person, for this I was thankful, for I never was so hungry.

Captain Ellsworth shot a cow, which was received thankfully.

September 5—Rested, rained all day.

September 6—Lost cattle.

September 12—Sarah very poorly. Archer Walters and family were tent mates of the Lees. He died a fortnight after arriving in Salt Lake. He helped John Lee to make all the untimely coffins and to bury their fellow travelers.

We arrived September 26, 1856, in Salt Lake Valley, in the Edmund Ellsworth company. They rested a week in Salt Lake and went to Spanish Fork—stayed there three years.

Then we moved up Provo Valley, now known as Wasatch County. There were 28 families here then. John and Sarah Lee had 12 children born to them, four boys and

eight girls. Their home was the first one with a fireplace and chimney in when finished. She was a midwife. At Christmas they had the first party in the valley. In the summer, Sarah gathered ground cherries and dried them, then in the fall she made syrup from beets, and at Christmas time she preserved the dried ground cherries in the beet syrup and made a plum pudding for the Christmas dessert.

John Lee helped build bridges and kill rattlesnakes. Midway was alive with them.

He was a Black Hawk War veteran.

John Lee was loved by all who knew him, and was a hard worker and an honest man.

John and Sarah had 12 children, 64 grandchildren, 86 great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren. They always were singing and had prayer at night.

She died at home in Wasatch County, September 14, 1909.

John Lee died at Heber City on June 18, 1907.

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*Mr
John
Lee
(Sarah
Roebuck Lee)
Midwife
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Midwife